Appendix A: Installation

The *AIDS Public Information Data Set* contains large quantities of data and requires significant computer resources for analysis. You need a 386-based MS-DOS microcomputer or greater with at least 45 megabytes of disk storage and a high-density diskette drive. The current version uses an interface first used with the December 1992 data set. This interface retains features incorporated into previous releases, but requires less storage space and displays data more quickly. As with previous releases, the software allows you to display simple statistics without additional software such SAS, SPSS, BMDP, or PRODAS. More complex analyses, however, require statistical software.

To transfer the data to another software package or to a mainframe computer for analysis, you may wish to request this data set in ASCII form (see page 3 for information on who to contact). You may also load the software, then use the export option to extract the records and variables you wish to analyze. The export option will create an ASCII data file, which can then be processed by other software, or transferred to your mainframe using software designed for this purpose. Examples of transfer programs include Crosstalk and Hayes SmartCom.

Loading the Software

The *AIDS Public Information Data Set* consists of 7 diskettes. To install it onto your computer, insert diskette #1 into drive A and type the following DOS command:

a:install <Enter>

where "a:" indicates the diskette drive you are using. If you are using diskette drive B, type the command *b:install <Enter>*. The installation program requires large amounts of free memory. You may wish to remove any memory-resident programs before you begin (display the file README on diskette #1 for more information). You will need at least 20 minutes to install this software.

The installation procedure will create a subdirectory named /AIDSPIDS on the drive you specify during installation. If you have installed previous versions of this data set, the current data will replace all previous data. To run the software, type the following command from the /AIDSPIDS directory:

aidspids   <Enter>

Getting Help

The *AIDS Public Information Data Set* is a menu-driven program which can be mastered with minimum effort. On-line help screens describe how to use the program to display information. You can access help by pressing the *<F1>* key. The information displayed will vary depending upon the last option you accessed. If you need additional information, contact the Statistics and Data Management Branch, Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention, telephone (404) 639-2020.

Displaying the Menus

Once you complete the installation procedure and run the program, you will see an information screen with four options displayed on the upper-left corner: View, Export, Setup, and Quit. To access these options, press the *<Alt>* key and type the first letter of the option you wish to run (i.e. type *<Alt-S>* to select the setup option). Select "view" to display data from either the main data file or from the state or MSA tables. A second screen will display so that you may select the variables you wish to tabulate. Select "export" to create an ASCII file containing the variables and data values you wish to extract. Select "setup" to change certain system defaults, or to create indexes. Creating an index will dramatically shorten the time it takes to display information from the main data file, but requires about 800 kilobytes of disk storage per indexed variable. Select the last option, "quit," to exit the program.

Cursor Control

If your computer has a mouse, you will probably find it the simplest way for selecting options. Simply move the mouse to the option you wish to run and click the left mouse button. To select variables, use a double-click. A check mark will display next to the selected field to indicate which variables you have selected. If your computer does not have a mouse, you can move the highlighted area by pressing the arrow keys. To select a variable, press the space bar twice. You can select any option by pressing the *<Alt>* key and typing the highlighted letter of that option.